

time period, a quarter of a billion dollars, quarter of a billion dollars, \$250 million in well fields, well field equipment, and equipment to clean nitrates and other contaminants out of the water that's coming down and coming into their wells, that whole complex involves that scale of investment. And they want to be sure that if they invest that much money that in the future, that in the future the water will be there. And the instream flow right they see and I see as very helpful to being sure that there is water there to seep into those well fields. And as far as who is hurt, I think that no existing irrigator, no existing user of water, Senator, can possibly be hurt, because you understand the system well and you know that with the change, with the Wickersham change that we are now dealing with a priority date that comes behind all existing users, everybody is senior. So, the only ones that conceivably could be hurt is anyone who might be wanting to irrigate...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in the future, and would hence then be a junior appropriator to the rights of whichever municipal well suppliers chose to exercise their rights. Again, the water that we're talking about, total, all municipal uses is probably 3 to 5 percent of the total annual water that's used in this state by all users. So, we're not even dealing with a very large percentage, and we're dealing only with the future and not with the present or the...or the past. Is that...has that been helpful?

SENATOR SCHMIT: (Microphone not activated immediately.) ...and I agree with your sincerity. My concern, I would guess, are these, number one, that future legislators might not be quite as frank and honest as you are, and might strike that...those dates and go back to language...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...that was originally in the amendment. I will speak a little bit later on.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Lynch, you're next.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I...I was going to ask